

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: October 22, 2007

From :  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 9(a): Consideration of resolution authorizing an amendment to the Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement, increasing the annual contributions to parties.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing an amendment to the Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement, increasing the annual contributions to parties.

Legislative Authority: Section 3500 *et seq.* of the Government Code, Joint Exercise Powers Act; Section 6502 provides, in part:

If authorized by their legislative or other governing bodies, two or more public agencies by agreement may jointly exercise any power common to the contracting parties...

Section 6503 provides:

The agreements shall state the purpose of the agreement or the power to be exercised. They shall provide for the method by which the purpose will be accomplished or the manner in which the power will be exercised.

Background: The Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority (WCCA) was established to provide for the proper planning, conservation, environmental protection and maintenance of habitat and wildlife corridor between the Whittier-Puente Hills and the Cleveland National Forest in the Santa Ana Mountains. The parties of the Joint Exercise of Power Agreement are the City of Whittier, City of Brea, City of Diamond Bar, City of La Habra Heights, two public members who are residents of the area within the wildlife corridor, the Superintendent of Los Lagos District or his designee, a member appointed by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, A member of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles, and the California Department of Fish and Game, as an ex-officio member.

At the September 27, 2007, WCCA meeting, the Governing Board passed a motion recommending that the parties amend the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement to increase

membership fees for WCCA members. The annual budget of WCCA is \$3000. Both the Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) provide staff time and use their materials and bill the City of Whittier \$3000 annually - MRCA staff prepares annual documentation of all costs associated with WCCA for the City of Whittier. Every year operating costs significantly exceed \$3000.

The WCCA Governing Board unanimously agreed to ask their respective governing bodies that an increase of WCCA membership fees be raised no more than \$1500 per annum from \$500 to \$2000. This would yield \$12,000 per year for operating expenses, which would be closer to covering actual costs incurred by MRCA staff. WCCA is asking that the Conservancy approve increasing membership fees from \$500 per annum to a maximum amount of \$2000. Other members of the WCCA governing board will be asked of the same increase. However, if the other parties do not agree to this increase to \$2000 per annum, and only agree to a lower increase, tonight's action would authorize an increase commensurate with the agreed-upon increase, not to exceed the proposed \$1500 increase.